

NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST NEWS FOR ALL UNIVERSITY STAFF



PRIFYSGOL
BANGOR
UNIVERSITY

G'DAY BANGOR

Rolf Harris visited Bangor University recently to film his forthcoming series *Rolf on Welsh Art* to be aired on BBC Wales this September. While visiting, he met some of the University's marketing staff and student volunteers who help to promote the University.

The reason for his visit was to view paintings by Bangor-born artist Brenda Chamberlain. He was delighted to see the originals which he'd previously only seen as prints. The works form part of the University's Art Collection which is on permanent display around the University's buildings ■



UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC STANDARDS GIVEN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

The University has been given a significant vote of confidence in its management of academic quality and standards following a major 'institutional review' by the UK Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. Each university is reviewed by the QAA approximately every 5 years.

The review process – which included the submission of a self-evaluation document by the University, an independent written submission from students, interviews with over 75 members of staff and students, and the scrutiny of over 1,000 University documents – culminated in a week-long visit in May by the

team of 5 external reviewers. The result was a judgement of '**Confidence**' in the soundness of the University's "current and likely future management of the quality of student learning opportunities and of academic standards". This is the highest of the three ratings which can be attained, and is a major boost to the University's academic standing and profile.

As well as examining the University's general policy and procedures for assuring quality and standards, the QAA team paid particularly close attention to provision delivered in partnership with other institutions (such as

Aberystwyth University or Coleg Llandrillo, in which around 400 students study for Bangor University qualifications).

A full report will be published, but the initial findings of the QAA team also highlighted the following "features of good practice":

The work of the Miles Dyslexia Centre where research enhanced the support to students;
The Peer Guide scheme introducing students to university life;
The work of Canolfan Bedwyr in enhancing Welsh language provision.

Continued on page 4

NICE TO MEET
Elen ap Robert
p05

SUSTAINABILITY
UniPlanet
p06

AWARDS
Celebrations
p09

VOLUNTEERS
Urdd Award
p11

INSPIRE WALES
Canolfan Bedwyr
p12

OLYMPIC TORCH
Matthew Davies
p15

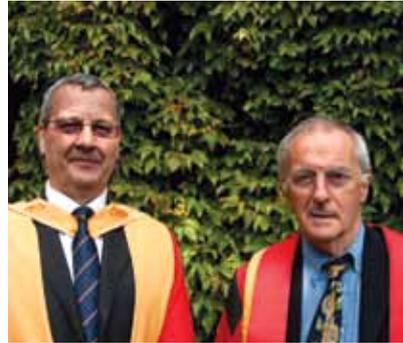
HONORARY FELLOWS

“Bangor University has a strong tradition of recognising the achievements of various men and women in different walks of life. Our Fellows add great distinction and glamour to the ceremonies at which we also recognise the achievements of our students. This year was no exception,” said University Registrar, Dr David Roberts.

Those honoured this year were:



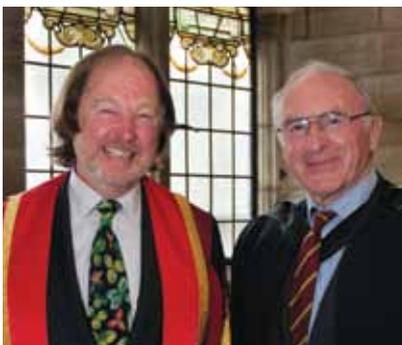
Professor Malcolm David Evans OBE, was born in Wales and is one of the UK’s most distinguished international lawyers. He is a Professor of International Law at the University of Bristol. He is a member of the Foreign Secretary’s Advisory Group on Human Rights; Chair of the UN sub-committee on the prevention of torture. He was introduced by Professor Dermot Cahill, Head of the School of Law (right).



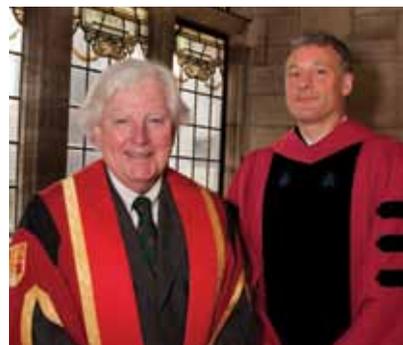
Prize-winning author and broadcaster, **Professor Steve Jones** is a Professor of Genetics at University College London (UCL). He is a *Daily Telegraph* columnist since 1992. He has authored several books, including *The Language of the Genes* which won the Science Book Prize in 1994. He is currently President of the Association for Science Education. He was introduced by Professor David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (left).



John Gibb Marshall (also known as John Sessions) is an actor, writer and Bangor graduate. He has enjoyed a distinguished acting career – starring most recently as Edward Heath in the film *The Iron Lady*. He has enjoyed a hugely distinguished acting career on stage and screen, specialising in both serious roles and humorous improvisation. Performances include *Die Fledermaus*, *Henry V* and *The Merchant of Venice*, as well as *Spitting Image*, *Midsomer Murders*, *Judge John Deed*, *Dalziel and Pascoe* and *Dr Who* amongst very many performances. He graduated from Bangor in the 1970s. He was introduced by Professor Tony Brown from the School of English (right).



Crug Farm Nurseries owner, **Bleddyn Wynn-Jones** began collecting plants on an expedition to Vietnam in 1991. He is regarded internationally as a major plant collector and propagator; plants grown at his nursery are sold world-wide. He has won many Royal Horticultural Society Gold Medals and has won the President’s Award for the best exhibit in the Grand Pavilion at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show. He was introduced by Dr Dewi W Roberts, a member of the University Council (right).



Anglesey man **Professor Tony Jones CBE, FRCA** is an internationally-known arts administrator who was Chancellor of the School of Art Institute of Chicago. He is well-known as a broadcaster and writer as well as arts administrator. He has won the Glasgow University’s Newbery Medal, and the US National Council of Art Administrator’s Award. He was introduced by Professor Jerry Hunter, of the School of Welsh (right).

“I’ve never forgotten my days at Bangor and am more touched than I can say that Bangor hasn’t forgotten me. God bless my *alma mater!*”
John Sessions

2012

A broadcaster, actor and international lawyer were among those honoured by the University during this year's graduation ceremonies.



Professor Catherine McKenna is a Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University. She is a distinguished scholar of narrative prose and bardic poetry of medieval Wales. She has close academic links with Bangor, and her Honorary Fellowship confirms a 'special relationship' between her department at Harvard and the School of Welsh at Bangor. She was introduced by Professor Peredur Lynch, Head of the School of Welsh (left).



Former MP for Alyn & Deeside, and government minister **The Rt Hon Lord Barry Jones** is a graduate of Coleg Normal. In addition to his political career, during which time he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Denis Healey and as a Minister in the Welsh Office, he has been President of Deeside Hospital and President of the Alzheimer's Society, and a member of the governing bodies of the National Museum of Wales and the National Library of Wales. He was introduced by Dr Andrew Edwards from the School of History, Welsh History & Archaeology (left).



Dr Gwyneth Lewis was Wales' National Poet from 2005-06, the first writer to be given the Welsh laureateship. She has published eight books of poetry in Welsh and English. Gwyneth wrote the six-foot-high words for the front of Cardiff's Wales Millennium Centre. Her collections have won and have been shortlisted for many prizes. She has written two chamber operas for children and an oratorio, all of which were commissioned and performed by Welsh National Opera with amateur singers. In 2011 she was Mary Amelia Cummins Harvey Visiting Fellow Commoner at Girton College, Cambridge. She was introduced by Dr Angharad Price, School of Welsh (right).

During the Degree ceremonies five members of academic staff were awarded **Teaching Fellowships** in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the teaching and pastoral care of students. Nominations for teaching Fellowships are made by both staff and students and considered by a panel.



Dr Thomas Caspari
School of Biological Sciences



Dr James Hardy
School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences



Dr David Pryce
School of Biological Sciences



Professor Robert Rafal
School of Psychology



Professor Guillaume Thierry
School of Psychology

... continued from front page

UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC STANDARDS GIVEN A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes, said:

"This outcome is a tribute to the commitment of all staff to high quality and standards in all our activities – quality is very much our watchword, whether it is in teaching and learning, pastoral

care, academic support, research supervision, or in supporting the wider student experience. I warmly congratulate all colleagues on achieving this judgement."

The Registrar, Dr David Roberts, who chaired the Institutional Review Task Group which prepared for the

review, commented:

"This was unquestionably the most searching external review of academic activities that we have experienced – and it's a very gratifying result for everyone associated with the University." ■

THE BEST PROCUREMENT TEAM

Bangor University has received a Times Higher Leadership & Management Award 2012. Now in their fourth year, these awards are a highlight of the academic calendar and a celebration of the best of the sector.

The University was awarded the Outstanding Procurement Team Award. The Team's victory was witnessed by more than 800 people gathered at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane to celebrate the sector's achievements at the ceremony, held in association with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.

The Procurement Unit is headed up by Jennifer Wolstenholme and comprises Mike Montgomery and Chris Benson, who work centrally with links to devolved buyers across the institution.

In response to the Award, Jennifer Wolstenholme said: "The award category for the Outstanding Procurement Team is a recognition and tribute to the high standard of procurement work undertaken throughout the Higher Education sector.

"It's a great honour for Bangor University to be awarded such a



L-R: Julian Clary, Jennifer Wolstenholme and Phil Baty, Editor of the Times Higher Education Rankings.

prestigious award and the University Procurement team are delighted to have had their hard work and professionalism recognised."

The initiatives recognised major progress in embedding best procurement practices across the University, leading to a more than trebling of the reported savings

within a three year period.

John Gill, editor of *Times Higher Education*, commented:

"The sector should take great reassurance from the extraordinary examples of creativity, commitment and sheer hard work that the awards judges have recognised." ■

NICE TO MEET...

ELEN AP ROBERT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, PONTIO



Elen joined us as Pontio's first ever Artistic Director in April. Since 2005 she had been the Artistic Director of Galeri in Caernarfon where she has developed a very successful programme of artistic events and community activities. Elen graduated in music from Sheffield University and went on to the Guildhall College of Music and Drama, London to study a postgraduate course in singing before spending six years as a professional opera singer. She has also worked as a music therapist specialising in supporting children with learning disabilities and communication difficulties in Gwynedd, Ynys Môn and Conwy. Here, Elen tells us more about herself:

How do you relax?

To be honest, I'm not that good at relaxing, but Begw, a red and white Welsh sheep dog who lives with my husband and I and my three children is great for getting us out for walks along Lôn Las Felinheli and on perfect summer days - Dinas Dinlle and Llanddwyn beaches - nice and relaxing unless any strange dogs approach us.

What is your favorite piece of music?

Renée Fleming's heavenly voice singing Porgi Amor from Mozart's Figaro's Marriage and also Kiri Te Kanawa singing Cantilena from Bachianas Brasileiras to voice and 8 cello by H Villa Lobos - we don't have the opportunity to hear this beautiful piece being performed live often enough! On long trips, no doubt Nina Simone, Bruce Springsteen and Lleuwen Steffan CDs would make an appearance.

What is your all food/local restaurant?

I love seafood, and the Lobster Pot at Church Bay, Anglesey is a firm favorite. Closer to home though, the Vic at Felinheli is a good place for Sunday lunch with a nice relaxed Welsh atmosphere, their home made pizzas are amongst the best I've ever tasted.

Favourite Film

Alfred Hitchcock films, *Amelie*, *Little Miss Sunshine*: my tastes are quite broad.

Favourite author / book

I've just finished Mari Strachan's second novel *Blow on a Dead Man's Embers*. For me, it requires a good story, and the story element is very evident in her novels. I really like contemporary poetry and I think sometimes (I'll probably stir up a hornet's nest for saying this) that poets are as good, if not better, at crystallizing truths, among them Gwyn Thomas and the late Iwan Llwyd.

What is the best theatre show you've seen recently?

I was lucky enough to attend the Imagine Festival in Edinburgh and was inspired by the high quality theatre for young people that are produced on the continent, among them HG by Swiss company TricksterP – a very inventive theatrical interpretation of the Hansel and Gretel story. I will try my best to get them to Pontio.

Outside of work what are your interests?

Skiing, although I seem to be losing some confidence as I get older and the boys in my family leave me behind. You need to be a fan of Liverpool football team in our house but as one who grew up in south Wales, rugby is a bit closer to my heart. Those who know me well would say that shoe shopping is my main weakness. That's probably very true! ■



A SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY

Sustainability can mean different things to different people, but it's essentially all about achieving a balance of three ingredients: social impacts; environmental impacts; and financial impacts – often described as “people, planet and pocket”. Our new sustainability web pages (bangor.ac.uk/sustainability) provides a forum for staff and students to contribute their own views and ideas to promote sustainability at the University. They are not ‘owned’ by any department or school and are very much there for staff and students to use and develop.

The Missing Ingredient

Senior Management and dedicated members of staff are working towards becoming a truly sustainable community by developing the right policies and procedures, but this alone will not create a sustainable community. The missing ingredient is **you** – and we’re asking for your buy in to achieve success. There are several ways of getting involved. For example, you can sign up to the “Ten Percent” initiative. Dr Einir Young, Head of Sustainable Development explains: “We’re looking to recruit 10% of our students and staff to commit to promoting sustainability at Bangor University. With this many people involved we feel we can really make a step-change within the institution. Those 10% who sign up will also be entered into competitions and can set their level of commitment and the activities to which they wish to contribute.” Staff and students can also sign the University’s “Environmental Pledge” that highlights simple actions that can be taken to make a big difference. Why not become an Environmental Champion for your work area? The role is entirely

voluntary and no qualifications are necessary; just a genuine personal desire to protect the environment.

Cash Prizes

Think what sustainability means to you and capture it in the photo competition ‘In Your Image: Your Views of Sustainability’, and you could be in with a chance of winning a prize ranging between £25 - £100. Visit bangor.ac.uk/sustainability for details.

Green Dragon Level 5

The “Green Dragon” is a prestigious Environmental Standard awarded to organisations in Wales that have demonstrated continual environmental improvement. It is a stepped programme and the University has achieved the highest level (Level 5) following an external audit of its Environmental Management System. Ricky Carter, Environmental Manager explains. “This accreditation demonstrates that throughout our University all necessary procedures are in place to safeguard and enhance our local environment. Our performance is improving year on year - we are

L-R: Caroline Lucas MP, Leader of the UK Green Party, Ricky Carter & Dr Einir Young.

making some great progress in reducing our carbon footprint, energy and water use, minimising waste and improving recycling, and developing sustainable means of travel. As well as becoming more important issues for potential and current students, achievement of the Green Dragon Standard also benefits the University when applying for research grants, as it is increasingly a pre-requisite in the tendering process”.

First Class Honours

People and Planet, the largest student network in Britain campaigning to end world poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment, have also declared Bangor University the ‘greenest’ University in Wales. In the 2012 University Green League, Bangor topped the League of Welsh Universities and moved from 28th to 19th in the UK wide table. Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes said; “I am delighted with the progress we are making. We recognise that sustainability embraces people and planet as well as ensuring that we operate on a sound financial basis. Bangor University has signed the Welsh Government’s *Sustainable Development Charter* to publicly demonstrate our commitment to becoming a more sustainable University.” **Ricky Carter** ■

WW1 CENTENARY PROJECT UNDERWAY

A vast project to digitise material relating to the First World War is currently underway. The University's Libraries and Archives Department, as a member of the Archives and Special Collections group within WHELF (Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum), as well as other university archives throughout Wales, have been awarded a grant of £500,000.



The project is being led and collated by the National Library of Wales who have also agreed to underwrite a further £240,000. The project is due to be completed by the middle of 2013 and is part of a number of proposed projects that will be up and running by August 2014, the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

Einion Thomas, Archivist, said:

"By combing the Archives here at the University we came across nearly 5,000 individual items relating to the First World War. The items ranged from lists of students who joined the forces, the cause of Belgian Refugees, the early development of a Women's Land Army, those who opposed the war on conscientious grounds and who were imprisoned for their beliefs, to sad and poignant letters from those at the Front. Of

A picture by the artist, Kelt Edwards which was sent to Silyn Roberts, a noted Welsh socialist, dated 1916.

great interest we hold three draft copies of Hedd Wyn's winning poem *Yr Arwr* which posthumously won him the Chair at the Birkenhead National Eisteddfod in 1917, he himself having been killed on July 31, the first day of the battle of Passchendaele." ■

UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Professor Gary Carvalho of the School of Biological Sciences, has been appointed to the newly established UK National Committee for Biodiversity, which will advise on issues related to biodiversity and represent the UK in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (IPBES) and other International biodiversity initiatives. He is one of 15 members selected following a call for nominations announced by various UK learned societies and organisations, with representation across universities, NGOs, the Government, and other institutions. He will bring expertise in conservation genetics and, in particular, the use of modern DNA-based tools for identification, monitoring and conservation of biodiversity at the population, species and community levels in marine and freshwaters ■

STUDENTS AWARDED MEDALS

In a new move, the Drapers Company, who support a number of students at Bangor University, have begun awarding prestigious medals to the UK's outstanding students. Out of around a dozen medals being awarded this year, one Silver medal and one Bronze Medal was awarded during the recent Drapers' visit to the University. Anthony Walker, Master of the Drapers' company presented the Medals to Sophie Williams, PhD student at the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography and to Elina Hamilton, a PhD student at the School of Music. Both individuals have been identified as students who, through example, enhance the reputation of Bangor University and its students ■

TOP TWEETS



Find out what some of our followers have been saying on Twitter

@SammyTurley1 So uni is over! I can honestly say I have had the best 3 years and made some of the bestest friends ever! Thank you Bangor it's been amazing

@xemalee_ Seen so many people in last year tweeting about how much they've loved Bangor uni and don't want to leave, so hope I get in!!

@andy_dobbs last day in Bangor before moving home. Bangor Uni class of 2012 it has been a pleasure!

@PaigeBennett9 Loving the initial look of the uni #bangoropenday

@reedoCC Will be graduating soon! Roll on masters in September #bangor2012

@CMcKenzieWard Congratulations to my little baby sister #bangor2012



SUMMER SLIM-A-THON

After some chilly months comforted by doughnuts and biscuits, three staff members from the School of Creative Studies and Media (SCSM) have decided to dust off their shorts and trainers to shed two stone each. That's a massive 84 pounds in total.

During the summer break, Iwan Davies, Lester Hughes and Jamie Sherry will be working hard to lose the weight in order to raise money for St David's Hospice. This is a local charity providing end of life care, free of charge, to adult patients from across north west Wales and supporting those closest to them.

Jamie explains: "Everyone in the school has been affected by terminal illness, whether it be as family or friends. We chose St David's Hospice because of their incredible care for people with life-threatening illnesses in north Wales, and also the time they take to show empathy and support for their loved ones. 75% of the money spent by St David's is raised through charity-work and we are proud to help in a small way towards supporting this important work."

The weigh-in took place on Thursday 10th May, with the results independently verified by Kate

L-R Jamie Sherry, Iwan Davies and Lester Hughes pictured in May.

Lawrence and Huw Powell from SCSM. The final weigh-out will be during Welcome Week on Monday, 24th September.

Please help motivate the trio to get fit and support a fantastic charity by donating as much as you can afford through the Just Giving website justgiving.com/SCSMSummerSlim or contact Iwan on 8560 ■

OBE FOR SIAN

Congratulations to Professor Sian Hope who has been awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. She has worked at the University in various roles for the last 26 years. Her current roles are those of Executive Director of Innovation and Professor of Computer Science at Bangor University and she is also a member of the Science Advisory Board. Sian is one of the UK's few female Professors of Computer Science. On hearing that she had been awarded the OBE, she said: "I'm very proud, honoured and almost speechless. This is probably the only time in my life that I didn't know what to say!" ■



STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS

Over two hundred students, course representatives and University staff came together recently to celebrate Bangor's first Student Led Teaching Awards after the Students' Union successfully bid for funding to take part in a pilot supported by the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Higher Education Academy (HEA).

"When we saw the project advertised, we thought it was a great idea" explains Danielle Buckley, Vice President, Education and Welfare at Bangor Students' Union.

"A strong feature of our application was that we wanted to run this initiative in partnership with the University and we were delighted with the positive response that we received, first from Professor Colin Baker and Professor Carol Tully, and then from the Academic Schools and ultimately from students."

One of 21 successful project bids nationwide, the awards were part-funded through the NUS/HEA partnership and match-funded by Bangor University.

"We wanted the awards to be genuinely student-led" explains Danielle "so we set up a project steering group and invited practising course representatives to sit on it. They decided the awards, the criteria and ultimately chose the winners. It was an incredibly difficult job to choose who won because the standard of nomination was so high. Students were rightly passionate about excellent teaching and support".

Over 300 different nominations were submitted by students on behalf of 180 different members of staff representing all of the University's Academic Schools. The



Dr Fay Short receiving the Best Teacher Award.

nomination process was completed online through the Students' Union's website, bangorstudents.com, and a full list of award categories, criteria and winners are available on the website.

All short-listed members of staff were invited to the awards dinner and were presented with a certificate and a mug recognising their achievement. Additionally, the winner of each category received an engraved glass trophy, presented by Professor Colin Baker, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning.

"Rarely has there been such strong applause, warmth of appreciation, and so much enjoyment of a student-staff event in the PJ Hall. For everybody, this was an event to be remembered forever," said Professor Colin Baker.

All indications suggest that the NUS/HEA support will continue past this year and the Students' Union is already making plans to run the awards again next year. The expectation is that this project will grow and grow.

"The Students' Union made this event an outstanding innovation. It was so well received by students and staff alike that this has to become an annual event for decades to come" said Professor Carol Tully ■

STUDENT LED TEACHING AWARDS 2012: WINNERS

Award for Outstanding Pastoral Support
Revd Kenneth Padley

Award for the Promotion of Welsh-Medium Education
Mr Elwyn Hughes – Head of Welsh for Adults Unit, School of Lifelong Learning

International Award
Ms Manuela Vittori – Welfare Officer, International Student Welfare

Green Award
Mr Ricky Carter – Environmental Officer, Estates Department

Dissertation / Thesis Supervisor of the Year
Prof Helen Wilcox – Professor of English, School of English

Innovation Award
Dr Jesse Martin – Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology

Support Staff Member of the Year
Paul Kennedy – Research Officer, School of Ocean Sciences

Student Service Department Award
Miles Dyslexia Centre

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year
Ms Sian Beidas, School of Modern Languages

Postgraduate Teacher of the Year
Prof Jerry Hunter – Professor of Welsh, School of Welsh

New Teacher of the Year
Dr Andy Webb – Lecturer, School of English

Teacher of the Year
Dr Fay Short – Lecturer, School of Psychology

Equality & Liberation Champion
Dr James Intriligator – Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology

Outstanding Contribution Award
Ms Steph Barbaresi – Assistant Registrar, Academic Registry

Outstanding Contribution Award
Ms Hazel Frost – Clerical Assistant, School of Psychology

For photos of the presentations search for "Skint Student Productions" on Facebook.



L-R: Louise Woodfine, Iona Heath presenting and Richard Neal.

RESEARCH PAPER PICKS UP AWARD

Congratulations to Dr Richard Neal of The North Wales Centre for Primary Care Research (NWPCPR) and Louise Woodfine, Principal Public Health Officer, Public Health Wales, who picked up the award for best paper in the Medicine

and Children section at the Royal College of General Practitioners annual awards ceremony in London recently. Their winning paper, 'Enhancing ventilation in homes of children with asthma: pragmatic randomised controlled trial',

examines the benefits of installing better ventilation in the homes of children with asthma. The NWPCPR is a research/teaching group that are part of the College of Health and Behavioural Sciences, based in Wrexham ■

FOCUS ON GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Graduate employability was the main focus of a conference attended by Bangor University staff at Cadiz in Spain recently.

Discussions were held by representatives from the Careers Service and Law Schools of the three universities involved as part of the Euroempleo project.

The project led by Universidad Cadiz aims to combine the efforts of both Andalusia Universities and the Andalusia Employment Service and, in collaboration with Pisa and Bangor Universities, to share ideas, experiences and good practice in relation to the employability of students and graduates. Topics discussed ranged from graduate unemployment, work experience opportunities, ways to engage students in extra-curricular activities, self-employment to views on controversial new European

Labour law reforms. Southern Andalucía is currently one of the worst affected regions in Spain with very high youth unemployment.

Bangor University was represented by Dewi Wyn Jones - Careers Adviser, Lis Owen - Go Wales Work Taster co-ordinator and Aled Griffiths - Deputy Head of Bangor Law School.

Dewi Wyn Jones said: "Despite the gloomy economic outlook it was interesting to learn about initiatives and issues adopted to face these challenges in Pisa and Cadiz, and realise that their predicament was very similar to ours in north west Wales."

"They were also interested in Bangor initiatives such as Enterprise by Design - an innovative, design-led, experiential business challenge where students work in

multi-disciplinary teams to develop a product to a brief set by real businesses. Further new initiatives such as the roll out of the Bangor Employability Award will hopefully build on these foundations and boost our graduates' employability".

Lis Owen said: "This experience taught us how important initiatives such as GO Wales are in providing opportunities for placements and tasters to our students and graduates. It also made us realise that we have been fortunate to have established GO Wales before the current economic crisis took hold as this has enabled us to develop the programme according to the needs of Welsh graduates and businesses".

The invitation arose from a successful visit made by a delegation from Cadiz University to Bangor's Law School last November. It is hoped that two members of staff from Cadiz will make the return journey to Bangor in July as part of the Erasmus programme to shadow Careers staff as well as enhancing their English skills ■



VOLUNTEERS HONOURED BY URDD AWARD

Marian and Bryn Tomos

Bryn Tomos, a lecturer at the School of Education, along with his wife, Marian, were awarded the John and Ceridwen Hughes Medal 2012 at the Urdd Eisteddfod recently.

The Award is given annually to an individual or individuals who have made "a significant contribution to the life of the youth of Wales". The couple were nominated by Urdd members and parents in the Bangor area, as they have run the Bangor 'Aelwyd' (Branch or literally, 'hearth') every week since 2004.

Mr Wyn Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor said: "This is a great example of community involvement by staff who have given many hours of voluntary time to social and cultural opportunities for young people in the area. Bryn and his wife Marian are to be congratulated for receiving this deserved award."

Professor Gerwyn Williams, a lecturer at the School of Welsh, was one of the people who nominated the couple. He said: "The Welsh saying, 'if you want something done then ask a busy person' is as appropriate as ever when applied to this helpful couple. Their contribution is vital to maintain Welsh identity among young people of Bangor and the surrounding area."

Bryn Tomos said: "Finding out that we were to receive the Medal was very unexpected and a complete shock to us both, as well as being a great honour. We genuinely feel unworthy and that there are others far more deserving - and yet we are extremely grateful, among others, to the children for their commitment. It's a pleasure to go to the Aelwyd every Thursday.

"One doesn't undertake this kind of activity to receive anything, our intention was to give something back - as we'd both enjoyed the Urdd as younger members. Of course it's also great to be able to contribute something to the children of Bangor as well."

Efa Gruffudd Jones, Urdd Chief Executive said: "The contribution made by individuals such as Bryn and Marian make is priceless, and we are extremely grateful to them for their continuous work in the Bangor area. They offer brilliant opportunities weekly to the young people, and the number attending is proof of the young people's enjoyment." ■

OXFORD AWARD FOR BANGOR PROFESSOR

Tony Bushell, Professor of German in Bangor's School of Modern Languages, has been awarded a prestigious visiting scholarship by St John's College, Oxford to complete a study devoted to the rhetorics of Austrian identity. Professor Bushell said his study will try to show the degree to which post 1945 republican Austria has struggled to establish a sense of its distinctiveness whilst often having recourse to its imperial legacy ■

TOP TEACHER

Philip Banfield, a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, has been named the British Medical Association Wales and British Medical Journal Learning Group Clinical Teacher of the Year. He was delighted to receive the award, which recognises teachers who excel in their work supporting medical students in Wales. Philip is an honorary senior lecturer at the North Wales Centre for Primary Care Research (NWPCPR), a research group within the College of Health and Behavioural Sciences ■

BANGOR FIRST FOR SEQOHS AWARD

Congratulations to Joe Patton, Occupational Health Practitioner for enabling Bangor University to be the first university in the UK to receive quality accreditation of its occupational health services. The accreditation quality assurance panel at the Faculty of Occupational Medicine have confirmed that Bangor University is providing a safe, effective, quality occupational health service to staff. The Safe Effective Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS) Accreditation Scheme is a stand-alone scheme managed by the Royal College of Physicians which has been selected to lead and manage the process on behalf of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine ■

WELSH LANGUAGE INITIATIVES WIN INSPIRE WALES AWARD

The pioneering work of the University in promoting the use of Welsh in the workplace was recognised at a glittering ceremony at City Hall, Cardiff recently when Bangor was successful in the Inspire Wales Awards. The awards are offered annually by the Institute of Welsh Affairs in conjunction with the Western Mail, and this year, Bangor University won the 'Bilingual Workplaces' category. Here are some of the reasons why the judges felt that Bangor University leads in this field ...

Cymorth Cymraeg (Help with Welsh)

This unique website brings many resources together in one convenient place to help staff use Welsh. Since its launch a year ago, over 6,000 individuals have used the website and pages have been accessed over 60,000 times. Although the website is widely used by the University's own staff, statistics and feedback also show that it is very popular with staff within other public bodies around Wales.
(bangor.ac.uk/cymorthcymraeg)

Canolfan Bedwyr

Canolfan Bedwyr has a new home in Neuadd Dyfrdwy where it continues to share its expertise in developing the Welsh language with staff, students and people from across Wales and the world. Come along to Canolfan Bedwyr for a chat - you'll find out more information on help to use Welsh, on developing and implementing policy, on translation, on language technology and on language improvement lessons.

Language Lessons

The University offers **free** Welsh lessons to staff at all levels - from beginners to those who are fluent and who would like more confidence in writing. The Welsh language improvement tutors are based at Canolfan Bedwyr (elery.hughes@bangor.ac.uk) and the Welsh tutor for staff is based at Human Resources (j.pye@bangor.ac.uk).



Top: Some of the Canolfan Bedwyr and University staff who were present at the ceremony with broadcaster Angharad Mair

Below: Some of the University's bilingual staff, L-R: Dafydd, Keith, Mike, Pearl and Robbie.

Technology Services

By commissioning and developing bilingual information technology systems, the University ensures that Welsh is given a prominent place in the context of online services. The most recent developments include a bilingual system to pay course and accommodation fees. Another valuable development is the way in which the University Staff Directory shows who speaks Welsh. Try phoning or writing a simple e-mail message in Welsh to colleagues - give it a go!

Staff Appointments & Development

The Human Resources department supports the University's policy on appointments and the Welsh language, and are available to offer help and guidance. The University also offers a large number of development opportunities through the medium of Welsh. An exciting recent development has been the Welsh medium leadership course. There were 12 managers enrolled this year.

Bilingual Services

The University is very proud of the bilingual services it can offer to students, staff and the public. The new self-service library system, for example, and the IT Support helpline are bilingual. Of course, the key to the University's bilingual services is its staff who are available to assist in Welsh or English in schools and departments across the University.

Welsh Medium Study Opportunities

Under the leadership of Wyn Thomas, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Welsh Medium and the Community, Bangor University leads on the delivery of Welsh medium courses for students and plays a leading role in the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. At Bangor there are more Welsh medium modules and courses available and more students studying through the medium of Welsh than at any other University ■

SHANKLAND IN SHINING NEW LIGHT

The woodwork and furniture in the Shankland Reading Room in the Library has been renovated to its original condition and a lighting scheme installed following a donation made by the Drapers' Company to the University. The Lloyd reading room has also benefitted from the Company's generosity with the addition of a new carpet.

The Drapers Company has a historic link with the University and originally contributed over £315,000 to build what was then the Library and Museum, and contributed towards the costs of installing and improving electric lighting in the building in 1949 and 1962.

Their most recent significant donation has paid for further restoration. If you visit the Library today, you will see that the wood floor and furniture has been restored beautifully and has a bright new carpet.

Speaking on behalf of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes said: "We are extremely grateful to the Drapers for their continued support of this University and of our students. We always look forward to the annual visit of the Drapers as we know that they keenly follow developments at the University and are delighted to meet some of the students who receive various Studentship awards."



L-R: Visiting the newly refurbished Shankland Library are - Prof Colin Baker, Pro Vice-Chancellor; Mr David Learmont, Director of Business Improvement; Ms Sue Hodges, University Librarian; Prof John G Hughes, Vice-Chancellor; Mr Einion Thomas, Archivist; Rear-Admiral Alastair Ross, The Clerk, Drapers' Company and Mr Anthony Walker, The Master, Drapers' Company.

Founded over 600 years ago, the Drapers' Company is incorporated by Royal Charter and is one of the twelve great livery companies in the City of London. It has moved with the times and evolved into an organisation that addresses contemporary issues, gaining a new relevance through its philanthropic role.

The heraldic arms of the Drapers' Company are to be seen in the Library in the Shankland room. At the entrance to 'Shankland' from the Vice-Chancellor's corridor, there is a Latin inscription that expresses gratitude to the Drapers for their funding. This is also reflected in the stonework in the Main Arts quad and the heraldic arms of the company can be seen in the stained glass

window of the Shankland reading room. It is this generous donation for the Library that remains the best known link between the University and the Drapers' Company.

The Drapers' Company currently award approximately £40,000 annually to the University to support various PhD studentships, projects and hardship funding. This has included an annual research visit by third year Ocean Science undergraduate students to the College of William and Mary in Virginia, USA. The Master and the Clerk make an annual visit to Bangor, and two sponsored students are invited to attend the Education Dinner at Drapers' Hall in March every year ■

HR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARD

Bangor University has been awarded the European Commission HR Excellence in Research award. This European award reflects the on-going work of Bangor University in support of our research staff. The award is assessed by a panel comprising of the European Commission, the Concordat Strategy Group, Vitae, the UK

Research Staff Association and the Equality Challenge Unit. This award acknowledges our commitment to achieving the principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers and, the European Charter for Researchers. Prof David Shepherd, Deputy Vice-Chancellor said: "This is an

important acknowledgement of the work undertaken by the University to support researchers. The University now has an on-going Action Plan to support the career development of researchers and Prof Jo Rycroft Malone is chairing a group supported by College Directors of Research to lead this process." ■

ATHENA SWAN AWARD

Bangor University's commitment to women in science has been recognised with a national award.

The University has received the Athena Swan Bronze Award in recognition of its success in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET).

Bangor is now one of 38 Universities in the UK that have been awarded a bronze award under the Athena SWAN Charter for Women in Science. The Charter commends good employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research.



The award was collected on behalf of the University at an event in Birmingham by Lyn Meadows, Director of Human Resources (right) and Dr Rosanna Robinson, College Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator, College of Natural Sciences.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor John G Hughes said: "The Athena Swan project has been given full support by the University's Executive and the award further enhances the University's reputation in research and teaching in science. The award also demonstrates the University's objective to ensure the participation and contribution of its entire staff".

Professor Sian Hope, Executive Director of Innovation and Professor of Computer Science, led a group supported by Nia Gwynn Meacher, Deputy Director Human Resources to prepare the submission and develop an action plan for future initiatives ■

TOP CODE BREAKER HELPS TO PUT GUNMAN BEHIND BARS

Dr John Olsson, Lecturer in Law and Criminology in the School of Law, recently helped police secure the conviction of a cunning gunman. Kieron Bryan from Moss Side, Manchester had attempted to buy the silence of Abdou "Shaka" Nyang who he shot and wounded over a feud over a Porsche Cayenne.

Whilst remanded at Strangeways prison, Bryan sent a letter to his sister with a sequence of numbers on the back. His sister was told to ignore the digits as Bryan said that he had been doing number puzzles. Prison authority staff became suspicious when the letter was routinely inspected, which led to forensic linguist, Dr Olsson being drafted in by detectives investigating the shooting.

Dr Olsson used a special computer programme to painstakingly analyse the number combinations, and deduced that Bryan had used a cunning code. The system used 23 random numbers in place of letters and cleverly substituted some letters for punctuation marks and other letters. Words began to

emerge from the numeric fog after Dr Olsson analysed the patterns and isolated the numbers that appeared most often. He believed these would represent the letters used most often.

A breakthrough came when the word ending 'ease' was identified with the help of a computer programme which analysed 840 combinations of the most used letters. Dr Olsson decided that 'ease' was part of 'please' and then was able to assign different letters to numbers.

The letter was revealed to say: 'da task has to be completed by any means necessary please. Task – statement from Shaka through independent solicitor sayin the police made him pick me out in da ID parade by giving him a signal – I have already made contact with Shak's bosses... they want fifteen K for da statement'.

Having worked on over 400 cases in the USA, Canada and Australia, Dr Olsson's work includes deciphering ransom notes and helping with investigations into homicide, terrorism, insurance fraud, narcotics

distribution and people trafficking told the trial: "Police had come to see me and bearing in mind I'm a linguist, I asked, 'How does he - Kieron Bryan - speak?'

"They said 'he's incredibly courteous', and that stuck in my mind. Imagine you're in prison, you're very desperate, but you're also very polite. This word 'please' is going to crop up.

"The thought process behind the code shows someone who is very able, very intelligent, very skilful."

As reported in *The Telegraph*, Det Sgt Neil Haywood, from Greater Manchester Police said: "The fact Bryan was prepared to go to such devious lengths to get out of jail shows he is a dangerous and calculating man but he failed to outsmart us and is now behind bars for a very long time."

At Manchester Crown Court, Bryan was convicted of attempted murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and was jailed for 25 years ■

THE OLYMPIC TORCH AT BANGOR

Dr Matthew Davies a Research Assistant at the School of Chemistry was one of a number of staff, students and Bangor University graduates chosen to run with the Olympic flame. Matthew was nominated by his partner, Lisa for his fundraising for a charity called SOS Africa.

Matthew said "The experience was amazing and slightly surreal, I was lucky enough to run two legs through upper Bangor and the support received was unbelievable. People lined the street and created a fantastic atmosphere, it's certainly not a day I'll ever forget!"

For more images and Olympic related stories visit the mini site at bangor.ac.uk/olympics ■



STAMPING OUT HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA IN SPORT

Bangor University and Bangor Students' Union have proudly declared a commitment to challenge discrimination and tackle homophobic and transphobic abuse in sport by signing a recently-launched government charter.

Richard Bennett, Sports and Recreation Director at Bangor University and Jo Caulfield, President of Bangor Students' Union, signed the Government Charter for Action and committed to working together to make sport at Bangor University a friendly and welcoming place for everyone.

Richard Bennett, Director of Sport and Recreation at Bangor University said: "We are proud to support this initiative to make sport a safer and more enjoyable environment for everyone. As the Olympics approaches it is essential that we strive to make sport accessible to all and reduce any barriers that people



Richard Bennett (left) and Jo Caulfield signing the Charter.

can face. There are so many ways people are involved in sport, not just through participation but through officiating, administrating, coaching and supporting that we need to shift the sometimes outdated attitudes associated with sport and reflect our modern diverse society and increase the chance of ensuring a lifelong engagement with sport".

The Charter has a growing list of supporters including Ben Cohen, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova, Stephen Fry and David Furnish along with all football clubs in the Premier League and Football League, the

Football Association, the Lawn Tennis Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Rugby Football League, the Rugby Football Union and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

You show your support for the campaign by clicking 'like' on the 'I love sport, but hate homophobia and transphobia' Facebook page at: facebook.com/lgbtsportcharter ■

DITCH THE CAR FOR A BIKE

The University launched its 'Cycle2Work' scheme in February, and to date, nearly 60 members of staff have benefited from it. The scheme, offered by the University in partnership with P&MM Employee Benefits, allows staff to purchase a bicycle from a local independent retailer or from Halfords.

The scheme operates via a salary sacrifice arrangement, and enables participants to save at least 32% on the retail price of a bike (that's a £128 saving on a bike worth £400!). The scheme is available at certain times during the year and the next opportunity to participate will be between the 1st and 30th of September.

For further information please visit the Human Resources web-pages or alternatively e-mail benefits@bangor.ac.uk

What do those who have participated think of the scheme?

Dr Anita Malhotra, School of Biological Sciences said: "I used the scheme to buy an electric bicycle, which are more



Anita arriving for work on her electric bicycle.

expensive than normal bicycles, so the savings are very welcome. As I live around 8.5 miles out of Bangor, the electric assistance makes all the difference to encourage me to actually use the bike. I'm also getting rid of my car and cancelling my gym membership as I'm now getting the exercise for free!"

Clare Brass, Finance Office, said: "I currently cycle into work about 70% of the time, but so far I'm a fair weather commuter! My journey is just over four miles and only takes about 5 minutes more than it would if I were driving, as I don't encounter any traffic. About 90% of my route is on a dedicated cycle path. I really

enjoy my cycle in, especially when I drive past the petrol station prices! I've found it gives me an energy boost when I arrive at work and when I get home at the end of the day. It also clears my head and puts me in a great frame of mind. As I'm not much of a gym person, I get daily exercise without having to put in 'extra hours' after work. Cycling is a great confidence builder too – I've reservations about cycling at night but I know that after commuting throughout the summer I'll be ready for it when the autumn comes around!" ■



IT'S A KNOCKOUT

Staff from Maesglas, along with 15 other teams, entered the 'It's a Knockout' event at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay on June 24th. The team, which also included some friends and family members, had a fun packed day of games and raising £400 for the Hope House charity ■

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